REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of Figure 6. Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 6 to change Step 206 from "...Replication Supplier" to "...Replication Consumer" as stated in paragraph [0044] of the instant specification. No new subject matter has been added by the way of the replacement of the drawing sheet as support is found in paragraph [0044] of the instant specification. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 1, and asks that the replacement drawing sheet be accepted by the Examiner. The drawing has been modified to remove references to portions of the drawings and conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. No new subject matter has been added by way of the replacement of the drawing sheet.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21, 28 and 29 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 11, 20, 21, and 29.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21, 28, and 29 have been amended to clarify the present invention. The claims 1, 10, 21, and 28 have been amended to add the limitation "wherein the schema is a set of rules to constrain what is stored in the directory server and the schema comprises a schema entry associated with an attribute and an object class in the schema, wherein the schema entry comprises a private field describing a human readable description of the attribute and the object class." Claims 11, 20, and 29 have been amended to clarify the present invention and conform with the amendments of claims 1, 10, 21, and 28. The Applicant asserts that no new

subject matter has been added by way of these claim amendments as support may be found at paragraph 30 at page 9 and paragraph 33 of page 10 of the instant specification.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been objected to by the Examiner for depending on itself. Claim 3 has been amended to depend on claim 2. Accordingly, a withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10, and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,589 (Hirashima). To the extent this rejection still applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 10, 21, and 28, Examiner asserts that Hirashima teaches updating a schema. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Rather, Hirashima teaches replicating data in a directory server. The data Hirashima replicates are the records in the directory server. (*See, e.g.,* Hirashima col. 8, ll. 12-18 and col. 3, ll. 12-18).

A record in a directory server is not equivalent to the schema of the directory server as recited in the claims of the present invention. A record contains information that a user may access. For example, a record may contain a specific email address, or a specific name, etc. In contrast, a schema is a set of rules that constrains what can be stored in records of a directory service and how servers and clients should treat information during directory operations, such as a search. Because a schema controls the contents of records by placing limitations on one or more records based on the set of rules, a schema cannot be equated to a record. Therefore, replicating data as taught by Hirashima is not equivalent to updating a schema as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Furthermore, Hirashima does not teach or suggest a schema update as asserted by the Examiner. As recited in the claims, a schema update is a schema that has been updated on a

replication consumer if the change sequence number on the replication consumer is less than the change sequence number on the replication supplier. Thus, for the same reasons as stated above, Hirashima does not teach a schema update as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Moreover, Hirashima does not teach a schema entry including a private field describing a human readable description of the attribute and the object class. As previously argued, Hirashima only discusses records, not a schema as recited in the claims of the present invention. Further, with respect to the records taught in Hirashima, the contents of the records are not even discussed. Accordingly, because neither the concept of a schema, nor the contents (*i.e.*, a private field) of a schema entry is taught or suggested in Hirashima, Hirashima fails to teach or suggest a private field with a human readable description of the attribute and the object class as recited in the claims.

In view of the above, Hirashima fails to support the rejection of claims 1, 10, 21 and 28. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,615,223 (Shih). To the extent this rejection still applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The portion of Shih, which the Examiner relies upon to teach "extending the schema with a new object class and a new attribute" and "describing a document with a private field of a schema entry comprising a description of the object class and the attribute," is actually directed to (1) a Directory Information Tree (DIT); (2) a generic reference to an object class entry belonging to the object class within a DIT; (3) a discussion of the relationship between the object class, attributes, and entries in a DIT; and (4) a generic reference to a table of attribute values associated with entries of a directory server. (See, *e.g.*, Office Action dated February 18, 2005 at page 8 and Shih col. 5, ll. 60-65 and col. 7, ll. 8-58). Applicant maintains that Shih fails to contemplate defining a schema. At best, the cited portions of the reference are a generic discussion of the components of a directory server. The recited claims of the present invention are *not* directed towards defining a directory server, but rather directed towards defining a *schema* in a directory server.

While the DIT taught in Shih is an integral component of a directory server, the DIT is not a *schema*; in fact, as described in Shih itself (at col. 5, l. 53- col. 6, l. 13), the DIT is simply a hierarchal structure of entries stored as a tree. Because the DIT referred to in Shih is not a schema, the attributes, attribute values, entries, and object classes (and relationships between the object class, attributes, and entries) referred to by the Examiner in the cited portions of Shih are only related to a DIT of a directory server and not a schema as recited in the claims of the present invention. For the same reasons, the Examiner's attempt to equate adding entries to the DIT as "extending the schema" is not proper. Extending the schema necessarily requires that the *schema* (not the DIT) be extended.

Further, Shih does not teach "a private field of a schema entry comprising a human readable description of the new object class and the new attribute." The Examiner attempts to use Shih to teach a private field describing a document using a reference to a table of attribute values associated with entries of found in a directory server (See, *e.g.*, Shih col. 7, ll. 10-58 and Figure 4). However, the table described in Shih does not describe a private field of a *schema* entry. In fact, the table shown in Figure 4 of Shih clearly does not include a schema entry, but rather just an ordinary entry in a directory server with the attribute values and attribute kind that are specific to each entry in the directory server. Figure 4 does not contain (1) a private field of a schema entry that includes a human readable description of new attributes; or (2) new object classes or any rules to constrain attributes or object classes that would be associated with a schema entry. Thus, the table in Shih does not teach or suggest a schema entry comprising a human readable description of the new object class and the new attribute.

In view of the above, Shih fails to support the rejection of amended independent claims 11, 20, and 29. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below.
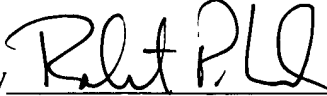
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Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/012001).

Dated: May 18, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

                                                    By _____

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Attachments (2 Drawing Sheets)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figures 1 and 6 as originally filed with the enclosed replacement sheet of drawings, which includes Figures 1 and 6. In Figure 1, some of the reference numbers have been removed to conform with the text of the specification as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Furthermore, the sub-boxes of Portal Services, Communication Services, and Web, Application and Integration Services, have been removed in order to clarify the invention. In Figure 6, Step 206 was modified to "Supplier Begins Replication Session to Replication Consumer." This was done to clarify the invention with respect to the specification.

Attachments: Two replacement sheets